

**AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS**

1-39. (Canceled)

40. (Previously presented) A liquid crystal display device comprising a pair of substrates; a liquid crystal layer disposed between the substrates; and a phase compensator arranged on an outer side of the substrates; wherein, when no voltage is applied, the liquid crystal layer, which has been subjected to a parallel alignment process, is in splay alignment, in which pretilt angles of the liquid crystal at an upper and at a lower boundary of the liquid crystal layer have opposite signs; wherein, before liquid crystal display driving, an initialization process is performed, in which the alignment of the liquid crystal layer is transitioned from splay alignment to bend alignment by application of a voltage; and wherein the liquid crystal display driving is performed in the bend alignment attained by this initialization;

comprising at least one region outside the display pixels where the liquid crystal layer thickness is smaller than inside the display pixels, and that an electric field caused by the application of said voltage, applied to the liquid crystal layer, is larger in this region than in the pixels.

41-42. (Canceled)

43. (Previously presented) A liquid crystal display device comprising a pair of substrates; a liquid crystal layer disposed between the substrates; and a phase compensator arranged on an outer side of the substrates; wherein, when no voltage is applied, the liquid crystal layer, which has been subjected to a parallel alignment process, is in splay alignment, in which pretilt angles of the liquid crystal at an upper and at a lower boundary of the liquid crystal layer have opposite signs; wherein,

before liquid crystal display driving, an initialization process is performed, in which the alignment of the liquid crystal layer is transitioned from splay alignment to bend alignment by application of a voltage; and wherein the liquid crystal display driving is performed in the bend alignment attained by this initialization;

comprising at least one location outside the display pixels where an electric field caused by the application of said voltage concentrates.

44. (Original) The liquid crystal display device according to claim 43, wherein the location where the electric field concentrates is a portion of an electrode that partially protrudes in thickness direction of the liquid crystal layer.

45-46. (Canceled)

47. (Previously presented) The liquid crystal display device according to claim 40, wherein the phase compensator includes at least one phase compensator made of an optical medium with negative refractive index anisotropy whose main axes are in hybrid arrangement.

48. (Original) The liquid crystal display device according to claim 47, wherein the phase compensator includes at least one positive phase compensator.

49-54. (Canceled)